



2012 California Vehicle Theft Facts

VEHICLE THEFTS

- In 2012, 174,457 vehicles were stolen. The estimated total value of the vehicles is over \$1.1 billion. (This figure is based on the average replacement value established by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.)
- Of the vehicles stolen in 2012, 60.7 percent were automobiles, 25.6 percent were personal trucks and vans, 4.3 percent were commercial trucks and trailers, and 4 percent were motorcycles. All other vehicles (recreational vehicles, construction and farm equipment, special construction, etc.) accounted for 5.4 percent.
- Top three theft targets:

Autos

Honda Accord 1994
Honda Accord 1996
Honda Accord 1997

Motorcycles

Suzuki 2007
Yamaha 2007
Yamaha 2009

Pickups and Vans

Toyota Pickup 1988
Toyota Pickup 1986
Toyota Pickup 1987

Commercial Trucks

Freightliner 2000
Freightliner 2001
Freightliner 1999

Recreational Vehicles

All-Terrain Vehicle 2005
All-Terrain Vehicle 2007
All-Terrain Vehicle 2006

Trailers

Homemade Utility Trailer 2012
Homemade Utility Trailer 2000
Carson Trailer 2003

WHERE THE THEFTS OCCURRED

- Approximately 49.2 percent of all thefts occurred in Southern California (Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego Counties).
- Approximately 24.7 percent of all thefts occurred in Los Angeles County.
- Approximately 18.1 percent of all thefts occurred in the San Francisco Bay Area (Alameda, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara Counties).
- Approximately 4.9 percent of all thefts occurred in Sacramento County.
- Approximately 4.1 percent of all thefts occurred in Fresno County.
- Top ten law enforcement agencies reporting the incidence of vehicle thefts:

1. Los Angeles Police Department (16,821)	6. San Francisco Police Department (5,693)
2. Los Angeles Co. Sheriff's Department (12,283)	7. San Jose Police Department (5,005)
3. California Highway Patrol (12,007)	8. Fresno Police Department (4,892)
4. San Diego Police Department (6,721)	9. Sacramento Police Department (3,630)
5. Oakland Police Department (6,205)	10. Bakersfield Police Department (3,326)

VEHICLE THEFT TRENDS

- The 1994 Honda Accord ranks as the number one stolen vehicle statewide and the 1996 Honda Accord and 1997 Honda Accord are ranked at numbers two and three, respectively. With high resale value, there are an abundance of Hondas on the road and consumer demand is high. Additionally, their parts are interchangeable with similar models from year to year and the ignition systems can be easily defeated.
- Consistently since 1984, Toyota pickups have ranked as the number one most frequently stolen pickup truck. Its popularity is due to its resale value, abundance, interchangeable parts, and easily defeated ignition system.
- The 2007 Suzuki and the 2007 Yamaha have ranked as the number one and two most frequently stolen motorcycles every year since 2008.

- Freightliner commercial trucks with model years 2000, 2001, and 1999 are ranked as the three most frequently stolen vehicles in their category. John Deere farm equipment ranked as the number one stolen vehicle in its category. These vehicles and equipment are popular targets because of their high resale value, popularity, and availability.

VEHICLE RECOVERIES

- Of the 174,457 vehicles stolen statewide in 2012, 87.8 percent were successfully recovered, representing 153,110 recovered vehicles.
- Of the vehicles stolen statewide, 93.7 percent of the automobiles, 41.5 percent of the motorcycles, 88.1 percent of the personal trucks and vans, and 81.2 percent of the commercial trucks were recovered.
- Of the vehicles recovered statewide, 62.6 percent were recovered intact and in drivable condition, 4.7 percent were missing major components, 14.3 percent were stripped of minor parts, and the remaining 18.5 percent were intentionally burned and/or wrecked.
- Although the total number of cargo thefts in California is low compared to overall vehicle thefts, it is considered an ongoing problem. In 2012, it was determined that 89 recovered vehicles were “cargo theft only.” Cargo theft is estimated to cost Californians hundreds of millions of dollars annually.
- Top ten law enforcement agencies reporting vehicle theft recoveries:

1. California Highway Patrol (22,451)	6. San Diego Police Department (5,082)
2. Los Angeles Police Department (14,421)	7. San Jose Police Department (4,825)
3. Los Angeles Co. Sheriff's Department (10,400)	8. Fresno Police Department (4,349)
4. Oakland Police Department (5,467)	9. Sacramento Police Department (3,126)
5. San Francisco Police Department (5,417)	10. Bakersfield Police Department (2,739)

INFORMATION SOURCES

- California Department of Justice, Stolen Vehicle System
- California Highway Patrol, Vehicle Theft Information System
- Federal Bureau of Investigation